000 films boasted of 460,000 showings in Hungary, with 44 million seats sold.

214 Printing machines in the State-owned and operated publishing houses do not lie idle in Hungary. Books, monographs and all sorts of pamphlets are being printed in a volume surpassing the pre-war level. In 1952, their number reached 14,000,000 volumes. What the actual products of this florishing literature are can be seen easily by a glance at the 1952 "best-seller list":

		No. of Copies
Stalin's Complete Works	Vol. 2	50,000
	Vol. 5	50,000
	Vol. 8	50,200
	Vol. 9	50,200
	Vol.10	50,200
	Vol.13	50,200
Stalin, The Problems of Leninism		50,200
Stalin, The Economic Problems of Socialism in the USSR		85,200
Spanov, The Conspirators		19,000
Pushkin, The Captain's Daughter		10,000
Azayev, Far From Moscow		10,000
Gorki, The Mother		9,060
Illés, The Conquest of the Land		12,230
József's Selected Poems		10,200
Illyés, The People of the puszta		11,400
Móricz, Tales		11,750

Only the last three on the list are by Hungarian authors. The total of Lenin's and Stalin's works recently hit the 10 million mark.

217 208 The Communist press and literature are propagated in the villages in the "people's libraries" the number of which is surprisingly high (in 1952: 278 in Borsod county, 253 in Baranya, 242 in Veszprém, 223

214 794 Papers, of course, are not the only publishing activity. Bibles are published by the Bible Committee of the Hungarian Protestant Churches. In 1949 they disposed of 30,000 Bibles. In 1950 it was 15,000 up till the end of August, the rate of distribution slowing down as people are now awaiting a new translation on which an Old Testament Committee is working, the New Testament being nearly completed. (The current translation is of 1911.) Again 30,000 hymn books were distributed in 1949 and more than 15,000 by September, 1950. Books and pamphlets are published in considerable quantities, Turneiser's *Cry of the Soul* is one of the more recent. Separate school text books have been published for each of the eight school classes. The Church Calendar is produced in 55,000 copies; *Az Utitáes* (The Companion) is issued as a guide to daily Bible reading; Karl Barth's *Dogmatics* and *Gospel and Law* have been issued, as have works by Bereczky and Péter; there was a special pamphlet on the Holy Year and another against anti-semitism.

794 [207] The Protestant Churches also attach considerable importance to the broadcasting time which is allotted to them. The Reformed Church has a fortnightly half-hour and every eighth week it broadcasts a full mission service. Its leaders also broadcast from time to time on other programmes. Since October they have also been given a half hour in both Hungarian and English on the short-wave programmes. Other churches have equivalent facilities although in October, 1950, the Catholics were still not availing themselves of their time.

The Reformed Church also has its own charity service and maintains 12 homes for orphans, four homes for old people, one home for epileptics, a mental hospital and a nursing home. These institutions are run by the central administration of the church. There are also others run by its local bodies. A special Sunday at the end of October was devoted to collections in all churches for the maintenance of these institutions. Every district church also maintains a church institute.

795 The situation in the Lutheran Church was explained by Bishop Dezséry, the successor to Bishop Ordass. The Lutherans, he said, have about 500,000 people. They are organised in four districts, each with a bishop. There are 21 deacons and 320 congregations. The largest is Budapest with 75,000 people. It is essentially a "diaspora" church (that is to say, scattered) and in remote places simply organised into pastoral circles.

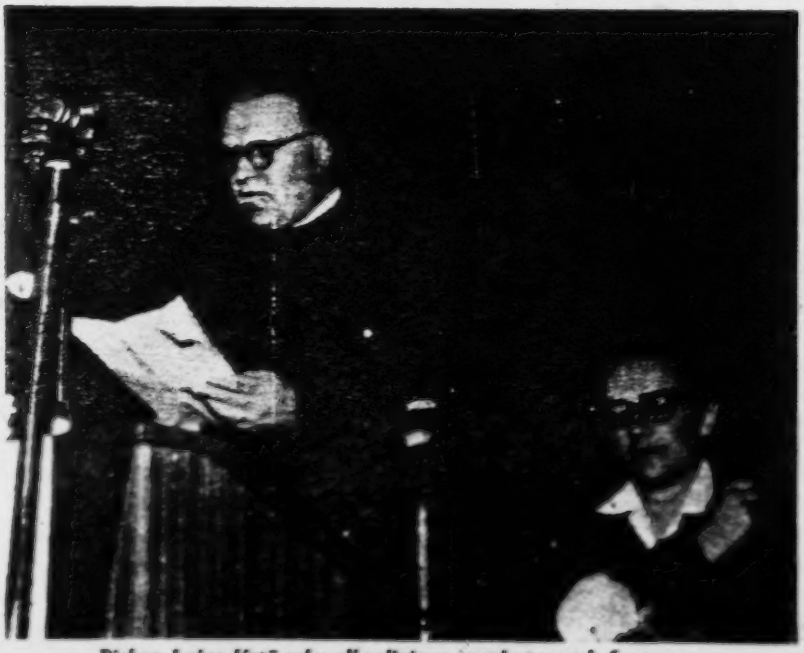
874 The Lutheran Theological College is at Sopron and has about 100 students, 15 of whom were new this year. It runs a five-year course but is considering reducing it to four years. Latin, Greek 794 and Hebrew are compulsory. Lutheran publications include the 204 weekly *Evangélikus Elet* (Lutheran Life) 12,000 copies, the monthly *Lélek Pástos* (The Pastor) for pastors, and a weekly

793 The Bishops took the oath of allegiance to the Republic and
659 also appealed to parishes to offer some of their church lands to
794 the State. On its side the State also took action and on July 3 the Presidential Council passed a decree, to be retrospective in its effects as far back as January 1, 1946, to the effect that Archbishops, Titular Bishops, Bishops, Suffragan Bishops, Abbots-in-Chief, Abbots and Provincials of Monastic Orders could only be appointed on Hungarian territory with the prior assent of the Presidential Council.

659 The rebuilding of churches has continued steadily and, in
794 addition to that, new churches are being built in the entirely new
[36] towns and villages which are the fruit of Hungary's planned
[214] development. Equally striking is the continued growth of church publications and in this field the appearance of the first volumes both of the Old Testament and of the New, of the new translation of the Bible, a new Hungarian-Greek New Testament dictionary, a new Lutheran Psalter and the first translation into Hungarian of Luther's smaller catechism, are outstanding.

The peace movement within the churches grows all the time. The Catholic Priests' Peace Committee, now officially supported by the Bishops, holds ever larger conferences and now has the support of a majority of the churches. The Protestant Churches constitute more and more a challenge to the present direction of Western Christianity in general and the World Council of Churches in particular.

793



Bishop Lajos Veté asks all religious people to work for peace.